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HENRY FIELDING AND *THE CRISIS*

Speaking of Henry Fielding's declaration in the Preface to the *Miscellanies* of 1743, of having published since "the End of June 1741" only what he enumerates in the Preface, Mr. Dobson says (*Fielding*, 1905 edition, page 72): ". . . provided it can be placed before this date [i. e., end of June 1741], he may be credited with a political sermon called the *Crisis* (1741), which is ascribed to him upon the authority of a writer in Nichols's *Anecdotes*." I believe that attention has not yet been called to the following notices: *Gentleman's Magazine*, Register of Books for April 1741, "5. The Crisis. A Sermon on Rev. xiv. 9, 10, 11. Price 6 d. A. Dodd." ; *London Magazine* book list for the same month, the same notice.

The passage in Nichols (*Literary Anecdotes of the 18th Century*, VIII, 446; reprinted by Lawrence, *Life of Fielding*, page 145, note) reads as follows: "I possess a pamphlet, intitled, 'The Crisis; a Sermon on Rev. xiv. 9, 10, 11; necessary to be preached in all the Churches in England, Wales, and Berwick-upon-Tweed, at or before the next General Election; humbly inscribed to the Right Reverend the Bench of Bishops. By a Lover of his Country. —Vendidit hic Auro Patriam. Virg.—London, printed for A. Dodd, without Temple Bar; E. Nutt, at the Royal Exchange; and H. Chapelle, in Grosvenor-street, 1741,' 8vo; on the title-page of which is this remark: 'This Sermon was written by the late Mr. Fielding, Author of Tom Jones, &c. &c. as the Printer of it assured me. R. B.'"

It is very likely that in 1741 Fielding would write a pamphlet of the general class of the *Crisis*. His fondness for "sermons" at this period is shown by his *Champion* references to South, Tillotson, and Clerk; by the nature of the themes and of the form of a number of his discourses in the *Champion*; and by the nature of a large part of the prose matter of the *Miscellanies* of 1743 including parts of *Jonathan Wild*. His great interest in politics at this time is shown in the *Champion* (a point

not yet sufficiently emphasized), and in the *Vernoniad* and the *Opposition* of 1741.

The following will indicate that Fielding might well print a 1741 work through Chapelle and Dodd.

"H. Chapelle," one of the publishers of the *Crisis*, was on June 29, 1741 present at the meeting of the partners in the *Champion* as a partner with Fielding and five others. At this meeting the 1741 reprinted edition of the *Champion* was knocked down at auction to Mr. Henry Chapelle (see Godden, *Henry Fielding, a Memoir*, pages 115-6). Chapelle's name appears as that of the publisher on the title-page of the 1743 edition of the reprinted *Champion*. Further, that in April 1741 Fielding had relations with Chapelle, is shown by his order: "Mr Nourse, Please to deliver Mr Chappell 50 of my [sic] True Greatness and 50 of the Vernoniad. Yr Hen. Ffielding. April 20 1741" (see Godden, page 115).

Dodd had connection with Fielding in 1728 when with J. Roberts he issued the separate edition of the *Masquerade*. The *Covent Garden Journal* of 1752 was "Printed, and Sold by Mrs. Dodd, at the Peacock, Temple Bar," the old stand of Dodd.

It is worth noting that up to and including 1736¹ all of Fielding's publications with two exceptions were apparently issued through John Watts at the Printing-Office in Wild-Court near Lincolns-Inn-Fields and J. Roberts in Warwick-Lane, together or singly. The exceptions are the 1728 separately issued *Masquerade*, Printed for J. Roberts and A. Dodd at the Peacock, without Temple-bar; and the 1731 *Welsh Opera*, "Printed for E. Rayner." But after 1736 and up to 1743, Fielding went from publisher to publisher. In 1737 the *Historical Register* was announced in the June *Gentleman's Magazine* without publisher's name; the 1739-40 *Champion* was "Printed for C. Chandler, Bookbinder, at the Bible in Ship-Yard, near the Ship Tavern, without Temple-Bar";

¹ A convenient list of Fielding's first editions may be found in Henley's edition, volume XVI, *Miscellaneous Writings*, volume III, pp. xlvii ff.

the 1741 *Of True Greatness* was issued by Corbett; the 1741 reprint of the *Champion* was "Printed for J. Huggonson in *Sword and Buckler Court*"; the 1741 *Vernoniad* was "Printed for Charles Corbett, at *Addison's Head* against *St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet-street*"; the 1742 (really December 1741, see *Gentleman's Magazine* of December 1741) *Opposition* was "Printed for T. Cooper, at the *Globe* in *Pater-noster-Row*"; the 1742 *Joseph Andrews* and *Miss Lucy in Town* were "Printed for A. Millar [over-]against *St. Clement's Church, in the Strand*"; the 1742 *Plutus* was "Printed for T. Waller in the *Temple-Cloisters*"; the 1742 *Full Vindication of the Dutchess Dowager of Marlborough* was "Printed for J. Roberts, in *Warwick-Lane*." All the later works after 1742, except the periodicals (the *True Patriot*, the *Jacobite's Journal*, the *Covent Garden Journal*) and the 1747 *Proper Answer to a Late Scurrilous Libel* (which was printed by or for Cooper), were printed by or for A. Millar in the Strand.

It would appear, then, that from the end of 1736 to the end of 1742 Fielding had not a fixed publisher, as he had before 1737 and after 1742. But of the eight publications (exclusive of the *Champion*) of 1737-1742 inclusive, Corbett and Millar surely printed two. Millar's two were issued in 1742. In April 1741, then, Fielding was very likely to carry a work he had for print to any bookseller who might be at the time most available. Chapelle he was acquainted with through the *Champion* and its affairs, and in April 1741 he was dealing with him in connection with the *Vernoniad* and *Of True Greatness*. Dodd was at the Peacock without Temple Bar close to Fielding's legal haunts, and had already had connection with Fielding through the *Masquerade* in 1728.

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AN IDIOM OF THE COMPARATIVE IN ANGLO-SAXON

Grein (*Sprachschatz*, II, 1864, p. 563 f.) was the first to bring together passages in Anglo-Saxon poetry that were involved in the use of what he interpreted to be an anacoluthic comparative with *þonne*. Since then these passages have perplexed the grammarian and the annotator. Among recent attempts to contribute to the explanation of the idiom is that of Professor Koepfel, who, in *Englische Studien*, xxx, 376 f., gives indirect support to Grein by an appeal to what he believes to be a similar idiom, "welche ebenfalls das fehlen eines komparativs vor *than* aufweist." He cites two examples from the dramatists in which *rather* of the formula *rather . . . than* is suppressed.

Several of passages usually considered in this connection may be dismissed at once from further attention. That *Exodus* 373 furnishes an instance merely of a simplification of consonants in the comparative of adjectives in *-r* has been shown in a previous number of this periodical (xxvii, 18); and the same explanation is applicable to *Christ and Satan*, 213 and 389 (Grein-Wülker, II, 534, 543; Sievers, *Beiträge*, x, 499; Groschopp, *Anglia*, vi, 267, shows that the late 'corrector' was inaccurate).

In the next citation (*Ps.* cxvii, 8, 9) there is a clear exhibition of an idiom that requires an explanation:

*Gōð ys on Dryhten georne tō þenceanne
þonne on mannan wese mōð tō trēowianne.
Gōð ys on Dryhten georne tō hyhtanne
þonne on ealdormenn āhwēr tō trēowianne.*

The point of the present inquiry is revealed in the close adherence of these lines to the Latin original:

"*Bonum est confidere in Domino, quam confidere in homine. Bonum est sperare in Domino, quam sperare in principibus.*"

What the Anglo-Saxon translator has here done in the way of subordinating idiom to a reverential transference of the exact word is so completely in accordance with the prevailing method of translating Scripture that one may expect this particular detail to be treated else-